



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot *Luzerne County, PA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

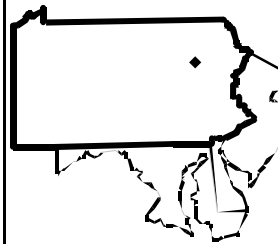
BACKGROUND

Luzerne County is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania, in the heart of the eastern "coal field" region. Anthracite coal mining played a large role in shaping the economy and the landscape of the county. The decline in the coal industry, as well as in the textile and steel industries, has drastically affected the lives of Luzerne County residents and have left a legacy of blighted communities and potentially contaminated land.

In this part of Pennsylvania, the inventory of abandoned and underutilized industrial and commercial properties includes abandoned minelands. The minelands of Luzerne County cover 62 square miles, or seven percent of the total land area. The ability to reuse this land in an environmentally and economically sound manner is vital to the achievement of sound land use objectives for the County.

The County is comprised of 76 municipalities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Two-thirds of the more than 300,000 residents live in urban areas. Both the poverty and unemployment rates exceed state averages; approximately 12 percent live under the poverty level, and seven percent are unemployed.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Luzerne County, PA

Date of Announcement:
July 2000

Amount: \$500,000

BCRLF Target Area:
Luzerne County

Contacts:

Luzerne County Office of
Community Development
(570) 824-7214

Region 3 BCRLF
Coordinator
(215) 814-3246

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

Luzerne County received a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot with Lackawanna County in 1999.

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The objective of Luzerne County's BCRLF Program is to provide low interest loans to facilitate the cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of brownfield properties in the County.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

Luzerne County Office of Community Development will serve as lead agency and fund manager. The County has not designated a site manager.

The term and interest rates, security, equity, and duration of Luzerne County BCRLF loans will be negotiable. Ten percent of project's total loan amount will be retained until the project has been completed and approved by the brownfields site manager. The County will contribute in-kind resources and services to assist in implementing the BCRLF program. BCRLF loan recipients will be required to participate in the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

The BCRLF will be used in conjunction with the EPA Assessment Demonstration pilot funds. Other funding sources that can complement the BCRLF may include the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Industrial Sites Reuse Fund for site assessment, Luzerne County's Keystone Opportunity Program tax abatements, state-sponsored low income loans for remediation and/or reclamation, and private lending institutions.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
